Legal opinion on Marketing~A)anagers of STC

146. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARI-BHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending with the Government received from Commerce Ministry and Chairman STC for legal opinion against Marketing Managers of STC during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay in giving legal advice to the Commerce Ministry and Chairman of STC;

(c) whether in some cases Solicitor General of India has advised Law Ministry for prosecution of Marketing Managers of STC, if so, the details; and

(d) the reasons for not initiating action on the advice of Solicitor-General?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment in innovative technological solutions

147. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecommunications Grant Landis and Gyr have joined hands with VXL India Ltd. providing technology transfer and investment in the field of innovative technological solutions for the metering monitoring and control of electricity, water, gas and distribution system;

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) what is the progress so far about the above items of public consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) M/s. VXL Landis & Gyr. Ltd., New Delhi, have been granted Foreign Collaboration approval with M/s. Landis & Gyr (Europe) Corpn. Switzerland, to carry on the business of manufacture, calibration, assembly, sale and service of House Service and specialized KWH Meters and Electronic Tariff Registers and Meter Test Consoles, Relays and Control Panels.

Implementation details of foreign investment projects are not centrally maintained.

Check on import of banned pesticides

148. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to stop import of banned pesticides which directly affect brain and nervous system resulting in deaths; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken on these requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce have not received any request from the concerned Administrative Ministry or any other source to stop import of such pesticides.

Stagnant Export Growth

149. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's exports have remained stagnant during the last one year and so far during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken proposed to be taken to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India's export have been steadily increasing in recent years including the current year. India's export performance

for the year 1995-96 and for the current period April-Dec. 1996 are as under:

(US $ Million)

1995-96	$ 31797
1995-96(April-Dec.)	$ 22757
1996-97(April-Dec.)	24205

(c) Export Promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through changes in policies & procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and in consultation with Trade and Industry.

Move to Scrap Sugar Act

150. SHRI OP. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appeared in the Indian Express dated January 10, 1997 under the caption "Move to scrap Sugar Act may deal a severe blow to exports"; and

(b) it so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sugar Export Promotion (Repeal) Ordinance, 1997 was promulgated with a view to enable a larger number of parties to participate in the export of sugar.

Export of Leather Goods

151. SHRI P. SOUNDARAJAN:
SHRI N. THALAVAISUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have liberalised loan facilities for the export of leather goods;

(b) whether it is a fact that for loan beyond six months over 15% interest is charged by Government; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme for providing financial assistance to the leather processing houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULK RAMAIAH): (a) Credit facilities are pirovided to the exporters of leather goods at par with other exporters under various schemes of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at pre-shipment and post-shipment stages both in rupee and foreign currency. The interest rates of post shipment rupee credit have been rationalised from 21.10.1996.

(b) As per Reserve Bank of India instructions, the current interest rates on post shipment rupee credit are as follows:

(i) Upto 90 days—13%

(ii) Beyond 90 days and upto 6 months- from the date of shipment 15%

(iii) Beyond 6 months from the date of shipment—Free. (Banks are free to determine the rate of interest)

(e) For setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants by Tanneries, Central and State Govts, provide 25% each of the total cost of plant. Loan is also provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants.

निर्यात संवर्धन संबंधी नीति

152. **श्री इकबाल सिंह :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश के निर्यातकों में तीव्र वृद्धि के लिए कोई व्यापक नीति तैयार की हैं :

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं:

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं, और